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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jackie Y. Ying et al.
Serial No: 10/044,801
Confirmation No.: 4734
Filed: January 11, 2002
For: NANOCRYSTALLINE APATITES AND COMPOSITES,
PROSTHESES INCORPORATING THEM, AND METHOD FOR
THEIR PRODUCTION
Examiner: not yet assigned
Art Unit: 1755

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the 31st day of May, 2002.


Joan E. Meagher

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

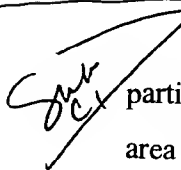
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculating the filing fee in the above-identified application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-580 without prejudice to the Applicants' right to pursue claims of identical or similar scope in this or a continuing application.

Please add the following new claims:

 581. (New) A composition, comprising particulate apatite having an average apatite particle size of less than 1 μm , an average apatite crystal size of less than 150 nm and a surface area of at least about 40 m^2/g .

B. 582. (New) The composition of claim 581, wherein the particulate apatite has a surface area of at least about 60 m^2/g .